



Jack O'Connell
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT
OF
EDUCATION

1430 N Street

P. O. Box 944272

Sacramento, CA

94244-2720

July 17, 2003

Dear County and District Superintendents and Charter School Principals:

**INTERNET POSTING OF
2002 ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE INDEX (API) REPORTS FOR DISTRICTS AND FOR
SCHOOLS IN THE ALTERNATIVE SCHOOLS ACCOUNTABILITY MODEL (ASAM)**

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that on June 10, 2003 the federal government approved the California state *Accountability Workbook* required as a result of the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act of 2001. Our reporting plans reflect changes approved by the State Board of Education (SBE) to comply with the requirement of NCLB that all schools will be included in a single accountability system. A key to the single system is an Academic Performance Index (API) for each school and district.

Now that the federal government has approved the state workbook, the California Department of Education (CDE) will post 2002 Base API reports for Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM) schools and for districts on the internet. **These reports are scheduled to be posted on the CDE Web site the week of July 21, 2003 at <<http://api.cde.ca.gov/reports.html>>.**

2002 API Base for All School Districts and All Alternative Schools Accountability Model (ASAM) Schools

2002 API Base reports were provided publicly in February 2003. However, these reports were not provided for either school districts or ASAM schools. Following the new accountability workbook plan, all school districts and all schools in the ASAM should expect to receive a 2002 API Base for the first time in July 2003. An API Base will be reported for each ASAM school and each school district that had at least 11 valid test scores and who also tested at least 85 percent of their eligible students in each content area in 2002. These APIs will also serve as a measure of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) for federal purposes under the NCLB legislation.

In recognition of the markedly different educational missions and populations served by ASAM schools, API reports for ASAM schools will not include statewide or similar school rankings. District reports will not include rankings because these rankings are calculated at the school level only.

July 17, 2003

Page 2

Schools must have tested at least 85 percent of their eligible students in each content area to receive an API. You will receive further notification about any ASAM schools with low participation rates in 2002 for grades 4 and 7 writing assessments and any ASAM schools with low 2002 participation rates for the California Standards Test in mathematics for grades 2-9. You can review participation rates for other content areas on the CDE 2002 data review Web site at <www.cde.ca.gov/psaa/api/2002data/>. Only ASAM schools with at least 11 valid scores will have a 2002 API Base report posted.

If you have questions regarding the 2002 API Base reports, please contact the Educational Planning and Information Center, at (916) 319-0863 or via E-mail at epic@cde.ca.gov. If you have questions regarding ASAM school data collection, reporting, and local determination of AYP, please contact the Educational Options Office, at (916) 322-5012 or (916) 445-7746 or via E-mail at rbakke@cde.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

William L. Padia, Director
Policy and Evaluation Division

WP:pw

cc: Accountability Coordinator (via e-mail)

Ref. No.: PED-EPIC-03-29